

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 790

S E C R E T JIDDA 2380

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, US, SA

SUBJECT: KING'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF MARCH 25

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM KING KHALED BIN ABD AL-AZIZ DATED MARCH 28 IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF MARCH 25. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED ATTENTION MR. DICKMAN, NEA/ARP; EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:

"IN THE NAME OF GOD THE MERCIFUL THE COMPASSIONATE HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GERALD FORD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA YOUR EXCELLENCY THE PGESIDENT:

I RECEIVED YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LETTER DATED MARCH 25, 1975, WHICH HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICE PRESIDENT, MR. NELSON ROCKEFELLER, BROUGHT TO ME AND WHICH COMMUNICATED TO US YOUR FRIENDLY FEELINGS AND GOOD WISHES. IN THANKING YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND IN MY NAME FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES (AT THE DEATH OF) OUR LATE, GREAT KING FAISAL BIN ABD AL AZIZ, I ASK THAT GOD MAY ENFOLD HIS MAJESTY IN THE SPAN OF HIS MERCY AND THE AMPLITUDE OF HIS FORGIVENESS, AND THAT YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY ENJOY CONTINUED HEALTH AND ABUNDANT HAPPINESS, AND THAT THE FRIENDLY AMERICAN PEOPLE MAY ENJOY ABUNDANCE AND PROSPERITY.

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YOUR EXCELLENCY:

THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS BEFALLEN US--THE DEATH OF OUR LATE, GREAT (KING)--HAS LEFT BEHIND DEEP PAIN IN OUR HEARTS AND THE HEARTS OF OUR FRIENDS. WE ASSURE YOUR EXCELLENCY HOWEVER THAT WE WILL PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDANCE OF HIS WISE POLICY, FOLLOWING IN HIS STEPS FOR THE SAKE OF THE DEFENSE OF RIGHT, AND JUSTICE, AND PEACE.

WE WILL CONTINUE THE EFFORTS WHICH HE EXPENDED--GOD REST HIS SOUL--FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINUING AND STRENGTHENING THE RELATIONSHIPS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR TWO PEOPLES, IN HOPE THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM AN EXCHANGE OF CONSTRUCTIVE POINTS OF VIEW FOR THE INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND FOR THE SERVICE OF WORLD PEACE. WE LIKEWISE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS AIMED AT REALIZING A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST BASED UPON JUSTICE AND THE RESTORATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE DESPOILED RIGHTS TO THEIR ARAB OWNERS, AND THE RETURN OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO ITS FATHERLAND, AND (GRANTING IT) THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I SHARE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S VIEW OF THE NECESSITY OF CONTINUING CONSULTATION BETWEEN US AND THE EXCHANGE OF POINTS OF VIEW ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPORTANT MATTERS JUST AS TOOK PLACE IN THE ERA OF THE LATE KING FAISAL BIN ABD AL AZIZ; THIS WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND WILL STRENGTHEN THE TIES OF FIRM FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THEM.

I HAVE INDEED COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT THE SINCERE AND EARNEST EFFORTS BY THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE A PRACTICAL AFFECT IN BRINGING ABOUT A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

IN CONCLUSION MR. PRESIDENT I REPEAT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY
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MY DEEP THANKS FOR YOUR CONDOLENCES ON OUR GREAT TRAGEDY, AND I ASSURE YOU OF OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MAY GOD PRESERVE YOU, /S/ KHALED BIN ABD AL AZIZ AL SAUD

RIYADH 16 RABI' AL-AWAL 1395 A.H.

CORRESPONDING TO 28 MARCH 1975 A.D."

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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